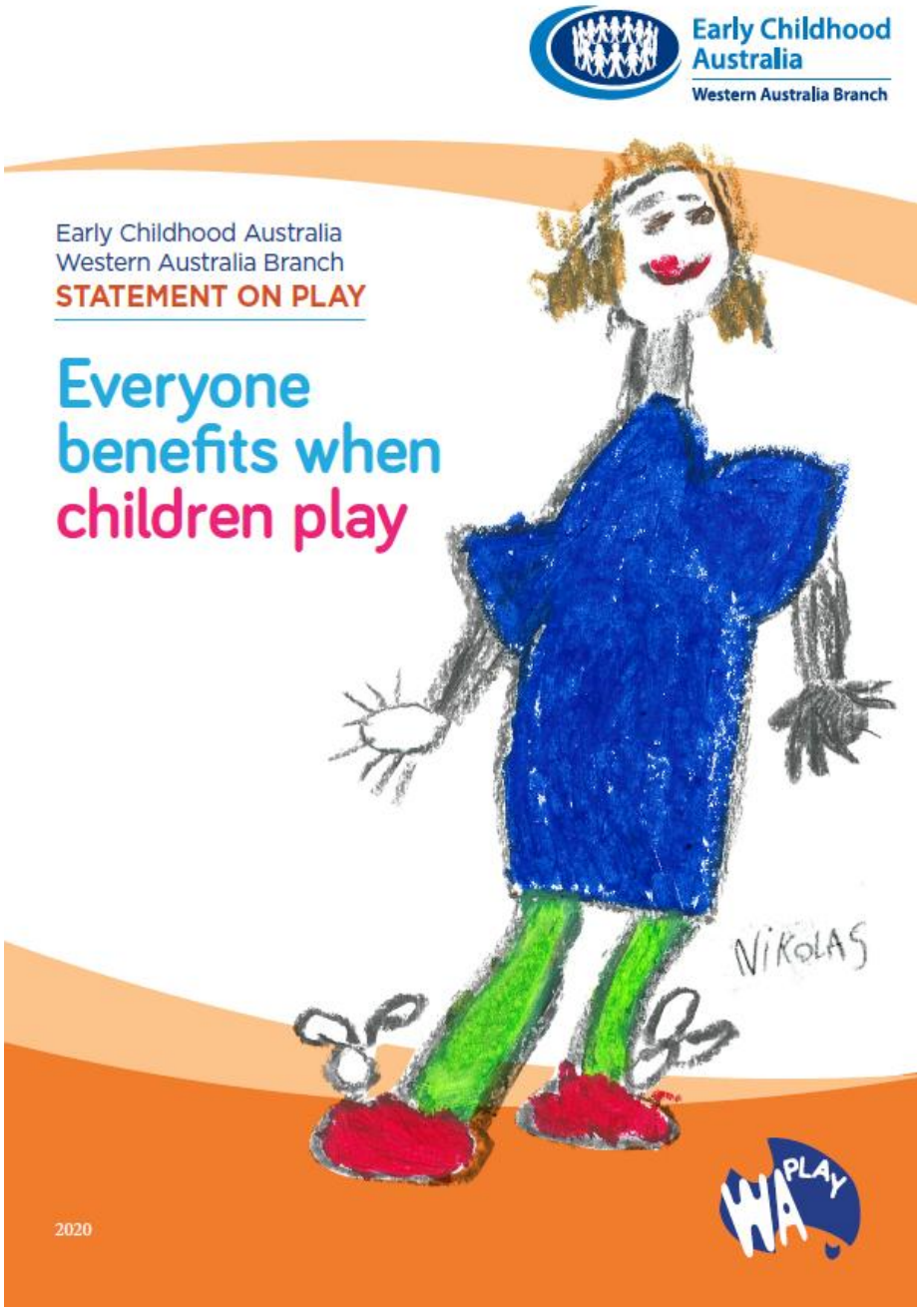
Thank You Founding Supporters of the WA Play Strategy Advocacy Movement

2013-2026





WE WANT AUSTRALIA TO BE THE BEST PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO GROW UP.

A NATION WHICH VALUES PLAY AS A LIFE-ENHANCING DAILY EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE; IN THEIR HOMES, EARLY EDUCATION & CARE, PRE-SCHOOLS, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES.

ECAWA: OUR VISION 2014
Play Strategy Subcommittee Established

OUR PLAY STRATEGY WILL ARTICULATE THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PLAY, AS WELL AS OUR OBLIGATION TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S ABILITY TO PLAY.



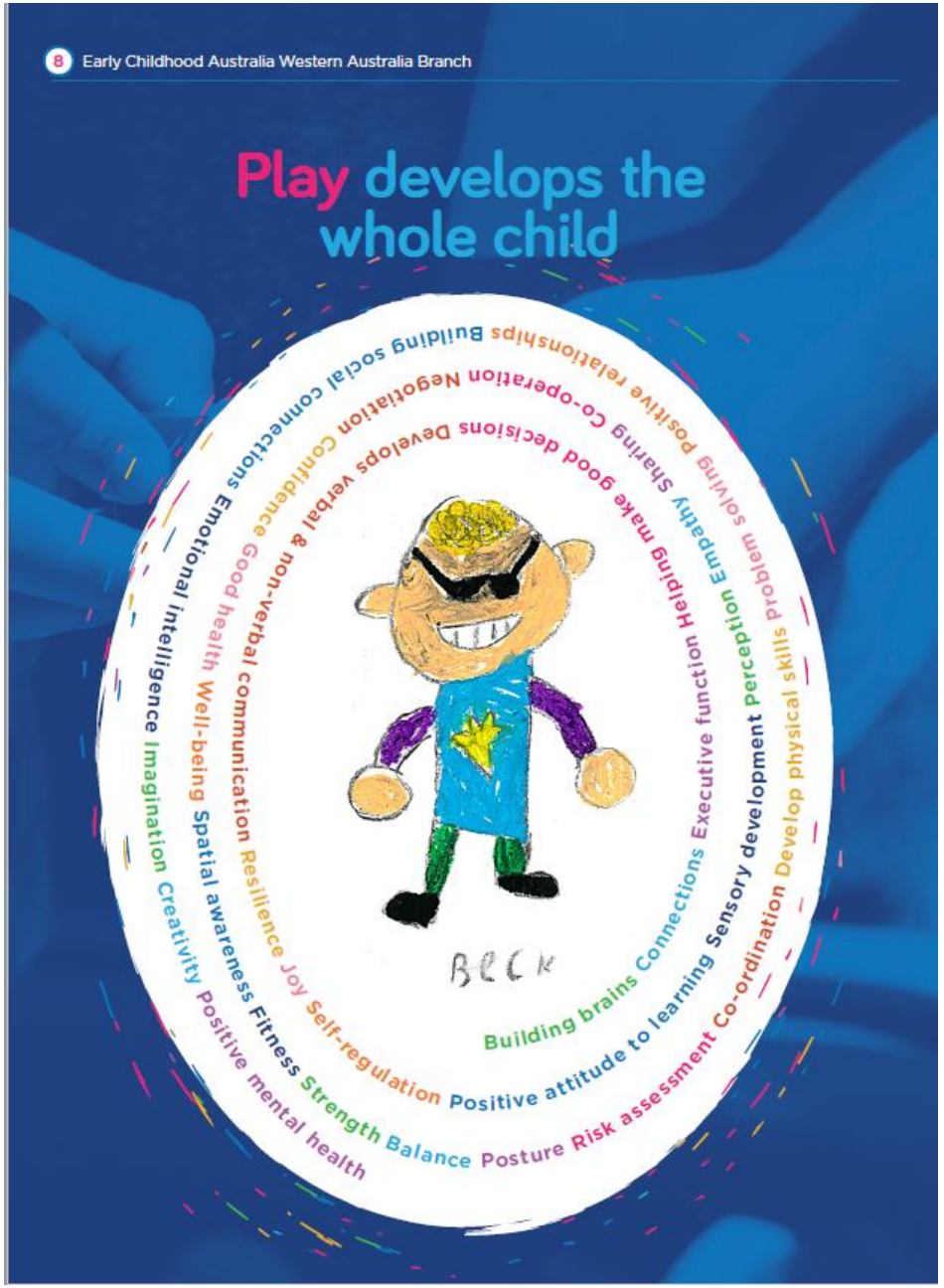
WE WANT OUR PLAY STRATEGY TO BE BUILT ON THE VIEWS OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE, PARENTS & CARERS, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SECTOR & OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO CARE FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING (2015).



OUR VISION AIMS TO IMPROVE PLAY EXPERIENCES FOR ALL CHILDREN & ADDRESSES OUR OBLIGATIONS IN RELATION TO CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PLAY AS STATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.



ECAWA Statement on Play



Significance of the ECA WA Statement on Play

ECA WA believes all Western Australian children have the right to access quality play opportunities in education, care, school and community settings.

ECA WA encourages every stakeholder to take steps towards implementing the actions and principles outlined in this *Statement*. We will work with ECA members, governments, the community and others across the early childhood field to realise our vision for play for young children.

We encourage individuals and organisations to visit the WA Play Strategy campaign website to read more about the WA Play Strategy campaign and available resources.

Go to: ECA WA Facebook Link

(REMOVE BARCODE)

ECA recognises that best practice is always evolving and we welcome feedback on this *Statement*.

Please e-mail us at: ecawa@earlychildhood.org.au

For more ideas visit:

www.natureplaywa.org.au/programs/nature-playgrounds
www.natureplaywa.org.au/nature-passport-outdoor-app
www.playaustralia.org.au/library
www.raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/play-learning/getting-play-started/toddlers-at-play
www.educatedbynature.com

ECA WA acknowledges play is essential for children's learning and development beyond 8 years of age.









Perth Individual
A progressive Montessori College

Thank you students for your beautiful drawings



Overview

This *Play Statement* was the initiative of the WA branch of ECA to promote children's right to play at home, in education and care, at school and in the community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ECA WA thanks the generous contributions of Kyla Williams (photography), Clayton Cabral (design), Perth Individual Montessori College, and the children who contributed to the production of this Statement on Play.

ECA WA also wishes to acknowledge members of an ECAWA appointed Steering Committee (2018) who shared their individual expertise and experience in relation to the importance of play-based learning and assisted the WA Play Strategy subcommittee (2017-2019) to develop an inclusive Play Statement that will benefit all Western Australians.



Play matters and needs to become everyone's business.

To ensure children's access to play - We urge others to take action

GOVERNMENT – POLICY AND ACCESS

We envisage that the Western Australian Government will take a leading role in promoting the importance of play and play-based learning.

It is critical that:

i. The value of play is promoted directly to families and the broader community;
ii. A play policy is developed at the government level to guide individual services;
iii. A play-based approach is clearly articulated in all Early Childhood curricula;
iv. Professional development in relation to play-based pedagogy and Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is mandatory for educators and management; and
v. Assessment of play-based learning is carried out by an independent body at all Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) settings (including schools), to ensure its quality and consistent provision.

"You get fit and you are able to climb on the monkey bars, helps you sit with your leg crossed. Playing makes me feel good. My life would be horrible if I didn't get to play."

Lorelei, 8 years



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROVIDERS (including the early years of schooling)

The perception that formalised learning environments create better educational outcomes coupled with the increased pressure on improving achievements in national literacy and numeracy tests have resulted in some WA schools providing limited time for play-based approaches (Barblett, Knaus, & Barratt-Pugh, 2016; Hesterman, 2018). Consequently, concerns have been raised that young children are not given enough opportunities to be active, self-directed learners in some early childhood settings.

It is critical that:

i. Each provider has a context specific policy on play;
ii. Play-based learning is at the core of all practice;
iii. There is an ongoing commitment to the provision of high-quality professional development in relation to play-based pedagogies aligned with Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF); and
iv. The early childhood learning environment is designed to support children's ready access to play resources and recognised as the 'third teacher'.



"Play makes people feel good. It helps children get fit other than going to the gym. Teaches kids how to sort stuff by themselves."

Arlo, 7 years

A Campaign for the Rights of the Child

Early Childhood Australia Western Australia Branch

Our WA Play Strategy Campaign

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), advocates for the rights of all young children during the critical early years (from birth to the age of eight), to thrive and learn through play at home, in the community, within early learning and care settings and through the early years of school.

We specifically acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities who have for thousands of years loved, nurtured and played with young children to ensure their well-being health and development.

We believe that one of the important rights of all young children is their right to play.

ECA Western Australia Play Initiative

In 2014 ECA WA branch commenced a Play Strategy campaign in response to a range of concerns identified by various early childhood stakeholders, that quality play experiences are diminishing in WA early years' settings. Our members called for play to be reinstated as a fundamental entitlement of childhood.

This *Statement on Play* (the Statement) is an important part of our Play Strategy campaign.

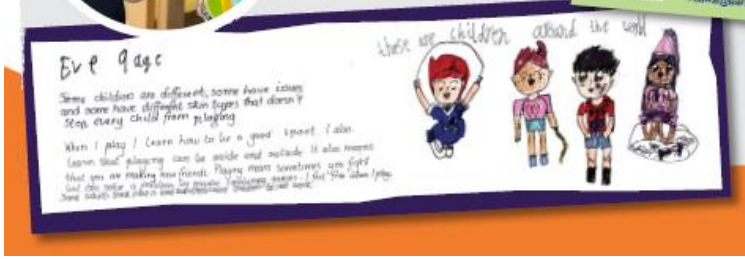
Vision

At the end of our campaign we envisage the development of a government-led WA Play Strategy, which will articulate the critical importance of play and recognise play based-learning as a leading research-based pedagogy across the broad spectrum of early childhood programs and the wider community.

We hope that this *Statement* and the Play Strategy will encourage cooperation between families, policy makers, planners and early childhood practitioners to collectively ensure that child-initiated play and play-based learning are readily available to all Western Australian children.







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Guiding principles

Children's rights

This *Statement* has been developed in the context of children's right to play, in line with Article 31 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). According to Freeman (1996, p.70) "rights are entitlements... which we do not have to grovel or beg to get". Given that the Australian Government ratified the UNCRC almost thirty years ago, we believe that it has a responsibility to progressively implement the Convention by incorporating it into law, policy and practice.

At the forefront of these considerations is ensuring that children are healthy and happy and are given opportunities to flourish and maximise their potential.

The value of play

Play has no single universally accepted definition, however it is a natural occurrence in childhood and happens across varied cultural contexts and environments. It can be perceived as "the highest expression of human development in childhood" (Froebel, Fletcher & Welton, 1912). Researchers agree that unstructured play directed by children and play-based learning, facilitated by skilful early childhood practitioners, benefit children's overall well-being and development (Lester & Russell, 2010; Whitebread, 2012; Wood, 2014). Limited access to play has negative implications for children's developmental outcomes (Milteer, Ginsburg & Mulligan, 2012).

Neurological research demonstrates that frequent opportunities to be engaged in play assists the development of a healthy brain and improves executive function; including paying attention, planning, prioritising and staying focused on tasks. Therefore play facilitates children's readiness to learn, academic achievements and future life outcomes.

In addition, play-based experiences enable children to engage in real-life and an imaginary world that encourages creativity and physical development; challenges their thinking; promotes communication and nurtures social-emotional well-being, self-identity and resilience.

As resilience is important for all children, but especially those who are vulnerable, it is important we value children's play as a life-enhancing daily occurrence.

Although play enhances all children's developmental outcomes, its role in encouraging socio-emotional development and improving self-regulation cannot be overestimated. Play allows children to engage in positive interactions, learn social rules and develop meaningful relationships with important adults and with each other. These relationships are invaluable for children's social functioning and engagement in learning.

Research findings are clear. Play matters for children in reaching their full developmental potential. As such, it benefits not only children, but also their families and the society as a whole (Cuhna, Heckman, Lochner & Masterov, 2006).

The context of play – environments where children should have opportunities to play

To ensure that young children are at the forefront of our considerations, we must recognise that their well-being is the shared responsibility of the entire community.

Given the role of play in optimising children's developmental outcomes, all Australian children should be provided with daily opportunities to participate in play experiences both indoors and outdoors in a range of environments including:

- in their home;
- early childhood education settings including the early years of schooling; and
- the community.

Play – "the highest expression of human development in childhood"

(Froebel, Fletcher & Welton,1912).


PLEASE ENSURE
YOU LEAVE
THIS SINK CLEAN
For goodness sake
Wash
your
hands




starmaid
Early Childhood Australia


MSWA










Thank you
Suzanne Lawrence







Thank you

kindling creative



Play Streets

Kerry Logan

Play AUSTRALIA

promoting the value of play

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Blog Guidelines
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Where is the child in the debate over free childcare?
A testing challenge for early childhood
Early learning matters for babies, but what do they even do?

CATEGORIES

Be You
Black Lives Matter
Budget
Children's rights
Community

High quality early childhood education in the early years of school

Posted on July 26, 2016 by Jenny Jay, Marianne Knaus and Sandra Hesterman



Young children need a rich range of child-centred, hands-on, play-based experiences and intentional teaching to develop the early learning required for future academic achievement. It is paramount for young children to be engaged in high-quality early childhood education programs if later academic success is to be achieved.

In 2013 an alliance was formed between four early childhood professional organisations—Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the World Organisation for Early Childhood (OMEP), Early Years in Education Society (EYES) and the Early Childhood Teachers Association (ECTA). This occurred after

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SPOKE

Subscribe to The Spoke and other ECA newsletters **here**.



The WA branch of Early Childhood Australia and the State School Teachers' Union would like to invite you to participate in the Early Childhood PlayDate — WA Play Strategy Open Day.

Date :	Saturday 8th July 2017
Location :	Lockridge Primary School, Rosher Rd Lockridge 6065
Time :	12 noon — 5pm

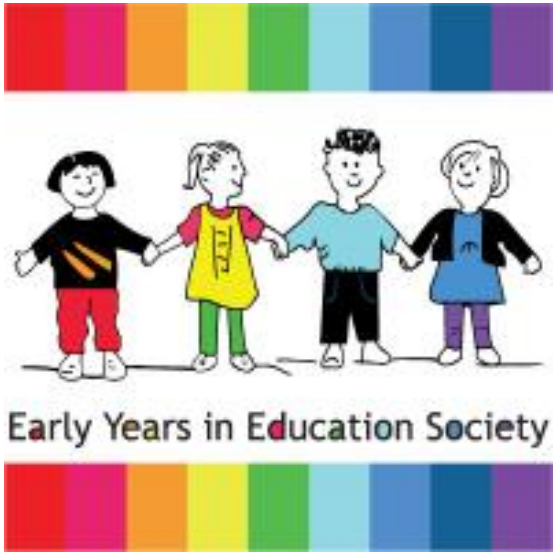
This event is to introduce Early Childhood teachers, educators, policy makers, parents and community agencies to the Western Australian Play Strategy developed by Early Childhood Australia WA and to promote the value and importance of play in children's homes, early learning care centres and schools.

We are inviting a select range of service providers and companies to participate in the event. You will be able to market your services and/or products to the attendees during this event.

The PlayDate will be a "Play Fair" where attendees can visit the various exhibits and experience the range of play opportunities available for Western Australian children., day care centres and schools.

Thank you
for your endorsement

Early Years Education Society





Lockridge PS ‘Play Date’ 2017

Thank you Sabine Winton

perthnow

NEWS | SPORT | ENTERTAINMENT | BUSINESS | LIFESTYLE | HAVE YOU HEARD?

CITY/WEST | HILLS/EAST | NORTH | SOUTH | SOUTH COAST | COMPETITIONS



Nathalie Burke from Messy Moments gets messy with Laura Patterson (black and white stripes) and Alexis and Zara (black shirt) Miller from Ellenbrook at the ECAWA Lockridge Play Date. Credit: Supplied/Supplied

Eastern Reporter

Lockridge: Early Childhood Australia WA event raises awareness about play-based education advantages

Kristie Lim | Eastern Reporter
July 13, 2017 1:00AM

Thank you Justine Moorman





Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia Branch

Play Date 2017

Thank you
for your endorsement




Early Childhood
Australia
Western Australia Branch
Play Date 2017



Thank you
for your endorsement

Little Ones
Early Learning

Thank you Sue and Leanne



Thank you Denise Ansingh

How Many Days to Play?

Murdoch UNIVERSITY

Please join the Murdoch School of Education for a seminar presented by LEAP Education Early Childhood Consultant, Denise Ansingh.

Play is the model for the life-long practice of trying out new ideas.
Pretending is the most open-ended of all activities.
Pretending enables us to ask "What if?" - Vivian Gussin Paley.

In this seminar, Denise will discuss how early childhood educators also need to ask "What if?" What if all children had the opportunity to use play to develop dispositions of curiosity, confidence and creativity, responsibility and resilience, and ultimately a growth mindset? How much time do you give your children to try out new ideas in play, pretend and ask "what if"?

In this seminar, we will reflect on how our image of the child influences how we use our days and refer to ideas from Education's greatest thinkers.



Event Information

Date	Monday, 6 August 2018
Time	4.30 - 5.30pm
Where	Hill Lecture Theatre, Education & Humanities Building (bldg 450) Murdoch South Street campus
Cost	Free
RSVP	Via button below

Register here



About the presenter



Denise Ansingh

Denise is currently an Early Childhood Consultant with LEAP Education and a tutor in Early Childhood Education at ECU. She is a recipient of the NEiTA (National Excellence in Teaching Award) for Leadership and Development and finalist for the Sangora Educational Foundation's Innovation in Teaching and WA Teacher of the Year awards. Denise has broad experience in early childhood education as a teacher and pedagogical leader with Level 3 classroom teacher status (DoE). Denise attended Study Tours to Reggio Emilia and New Zealand which influenced her philosophy and is a firm believer in play-based and nature pedagogies for working with young children.


The Amari Hotel
Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia
Play Date

Thank you
for your endorsement

REmida




Early Ch
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Western Aust
Play Date



Early Chil
Australia
Western Austra

Play Date 2



Early Childhood Australia

Western Australia Branch

Date 2017

Thank you
for your endorsement

Educated by Nature





Thank you
for your endorsement



Bubbly
World Class
Soap Bubbles


Early Child
Australia
Western Australi
Play Date 20


Lockridge Primary
Wisdom & Courage
Play Dat

Thank you
for your endorsement

MONTESSORI
AUSTRALIA



Thank you for your endorsement

PERTH INDIVIDUAL – A PROGRESSIVE MONTESSORI COLLEGE

Perth Individual Montessori College

Play Fair 2019





Thank you Jayne Kaiko








KIDS SN
PACK
$5




















STAFF
STAFF
STAFF
STAFF


Play Matters!
WA Play S
Endorse
www.wapl


WA Play Strate
Endorse Toda
www.waplaystrateg
Early Childhoo
Australia

Thank you Claire Orange



Thank you



facebook

Email or phone

Password

Forgotten account?



Early Childhood Australia

WA Play Strategy

@waplaystrategy

See more of WA Play Strategy on Facebook

Log In or Create New Account

932 likes






Play Matters!
Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia Branch
A WA Play Strategy for all West Australian children.
Find out more & endorse the campaign waplaystrategy.com
@waplaystrategy











Future Milestones

Play Matters Collective

Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

WA Premier's Bright Futures Statement

…to see how we can best collaborate to achieve its outcomes, and what needs to be done to deliver on these priorities for our children.


PLAY
MATTERS
COLLECTIVE

Play is a fundamental human right, enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Play is a fundamental human right, enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We owe it to all children and young people to make it a priority in every aspect of their lives, irrespective of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, or circumstance.

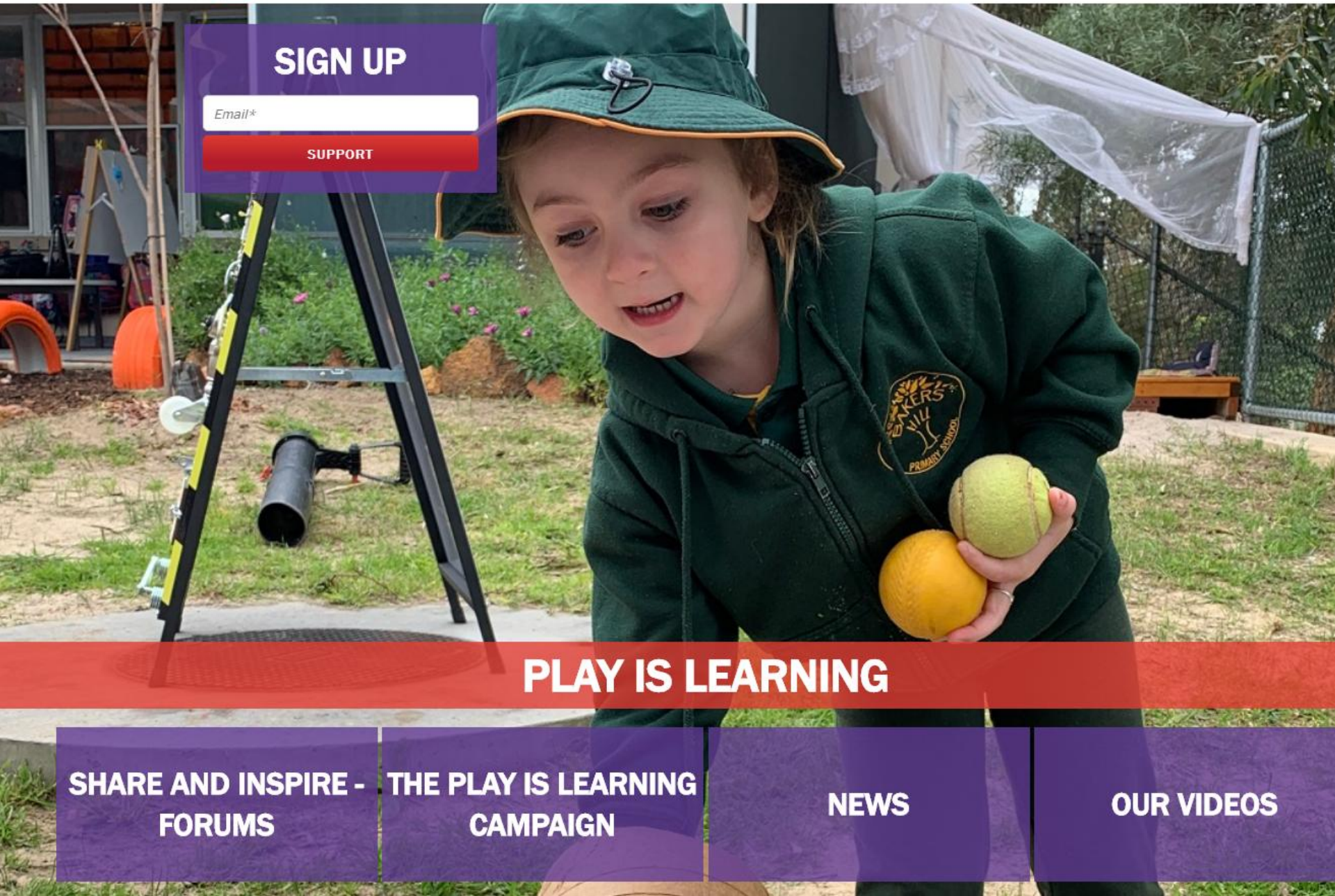
The Play Matters Collective, recently convened under the patronage of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Mr Colin Pettit, is progressing the work of Early Childhood Australia WA to raise public awareness about the importance of play and will soon be launching a Play Charter to benefit all WA children and young people.

Thank you
for your endorsement

State School Teachers' Union WA



Not secure | puttingourkidsfirst.com.au





Thank you Jacqui McIver

Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia Branch

Play Date 2017


More information at
playislearning.org.au
PLAY
IS
LEARNING

Volume 48.7 September 2019 The State School Teachers' Union of W.A. (Inc.)

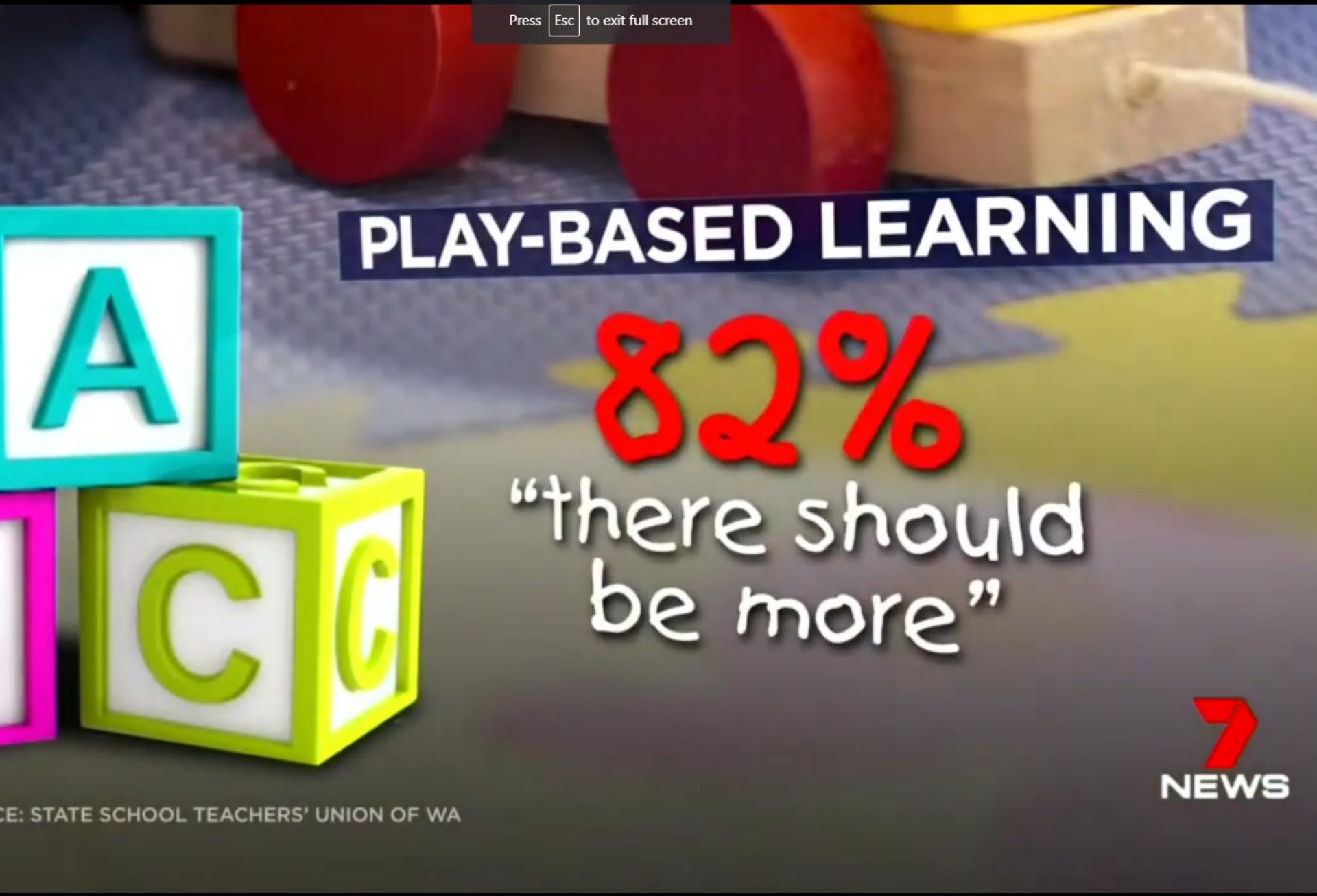
WESTERN Teacher

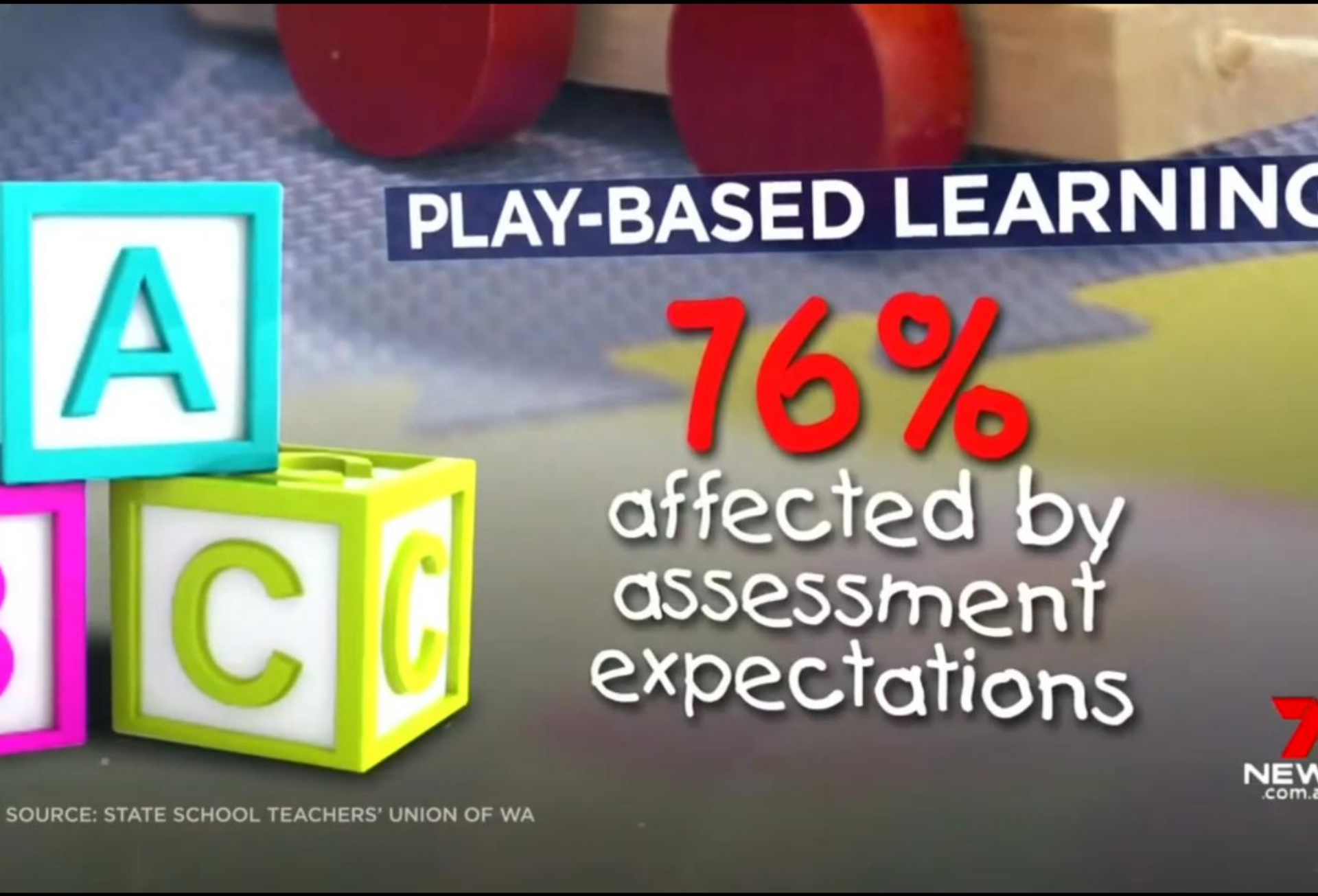
Are you play proud?



Play is Learning:

Early childhood education campaign launch pg 8


Press Esc to exit full screen
PLAY-BASED LEARNING
82%
"there should be more"
7 NEWS
CE: STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION OF WA


PLAY-BASED LEARNING
76%
affected by
assessment
expectations
SOURCE: STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION OF WA


SSTUWA
The State School Teachers' Union of W.A. (Inc.)

WAtoday

This was published 1 year ago

WA primary schools to make play a priority for 2019

By Daile Cross
September 21, 2018 — 9.52am



Share A A A

The serious concerns of teachers and parents about the demise of play-based learning in West Australian primary schools appears to have been recognised, with play now a priority for 2019.

WA Education Department Acting Director General Jennifer McGrath's new Focus 2019 document for schools instructs administrations to emphasise the role of play-based learning in a balanced curriculum for kindergarten and pre-primary students.

Education experts, teachers and parents had previously warned the demise of play-based learning for Australian four and five year olds in schools was a crisis demanding attention.

In a growing number of schools young children were under too much pressure and teaching styles were too rigid, disregarding best practice in an effort to chase better test scores.



Professional & Community

150 Organisation Endorsements





Thank you Ruth Wallace

snac.

Thank you
for your endorsement

Australian
HEALTH
PROMOTION
Association

Professional Learning Ever
Designing a School Play

and well-being

rs include:

cliver (SSTUWA Case Manager ECE) - Working with School Policies/
nes/Operational Issues
Merewether (Lecturer, Curtin University) - Image of the Child
teachers Fiona Scidone (Clifton Hills PS) and Natalie Warnock (Hillman PS)
wo Case Studies



Please join the Murdoch School of Educ
professional learning event for Early Childhoo
facilitated by Dr Sandra Hesterman, Dir
Education at Murdoch University.

Western Australia is experiencing a demise of play-ba
schooling. In response, some schools are designing th
play-based learning is delivered. This three-hour semin
provide teacher participants with an opportunity to lea
in developing a school play policy in accordance to the

Topics of discussion will include how a school play
child's right to:

- access quality time, space and resources to inspire creativity
- develop self-regulation and resilience
- support the achievement of educational outcomes
- nurture self-identity and well-being

Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

Play Summit

25th October 2017

OUR VISION: EVERY YOUNG CHILD IS THRIVING AND LEARNING

Play Summit



A three-part free event, register for one session or register for all three.

Just remember to register for *each* session you wish to attend.

Part A: 1:30pm - Registration and a light afternoon tea served
2:00pm – Keynote address by **Professor Donna Cross** from Telethon Kids Institute

Part B: 3:45pm – Registration and a light afternoon tea served
4:15pm – **Group presentations** looking at **Play in Practice**

Part C: 5:30pm – Registration and Networking session
ECAWA Branch will host a Play Summit **Networking Session**
Canapes served and a licensed bar available
(drinks available for purchase)

1:30pm – 6.30pm Wednesday 25th October 2017

Burswood on Swan, 1 Camfield Drive, Burswood 6100

Light refreshments will be available at each session
Please bring your tickets for ease of registration on the day

Register NOW: www.trybooking.com.au (search "Play Summit")

Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

2013	ECA WA Branch Meeting: Members want to raise the profile of play in the early years settings – particularly in the early years of schooling
2014	ECA WA meet with key ECE advocacy groups (OMEP, EYES, ECTA). The erosion of child-initiated play in the early years was once again identified as a significant concern among ECE advocacy memberships.
2014	*1st Discussion Paper* calls for high quality early childhood education in the early years of school and emphasising the *Value of Play in Early Years Learning* was written and circulated via social media. Endorsed by SSTUWA, EYES, OMEP, ECTA, Reggio WA.
2014 2015	ECA AGM: ECEC key stakeholders presented on the importance of play as emphasised in their ECE program and environment. The idea of developing a play strategy for WA was proposed by attendees.
2015	A **Play Strategy for Australia** becomes of national interest. Endorsed in principle at ECA National Leadership Forum. WA to lead the initiative.
2016	Forums held with key stakeholders and ECA WA members to gain broad-based grass-root support and contribute ideas to realise this vision. Attendees asked why is it timely to develop a WA Play Strategy and what are the potential benefits to WA. Research on **Play Scotland** http://www.playscotland.org/getting-right-play/getting-it-right-for-play/
2016	*2nd Discussion* Paper calls for the development of a WA Play Strategy in Early Childhood Education and Care (children aged birth- 8 years*).* To date endorsed by 100 organizations and 300 individuals.

2017 – 2019 Campaign

Play Matters

Early Years Education Society Play Picnic



Thank you
for your endorsement

Huntingdale
Primary School





Child's Play

Findings from the Western Australian 'PLAY Spaces and Environments for Children's Physical Activity' Study (PLAYCE)

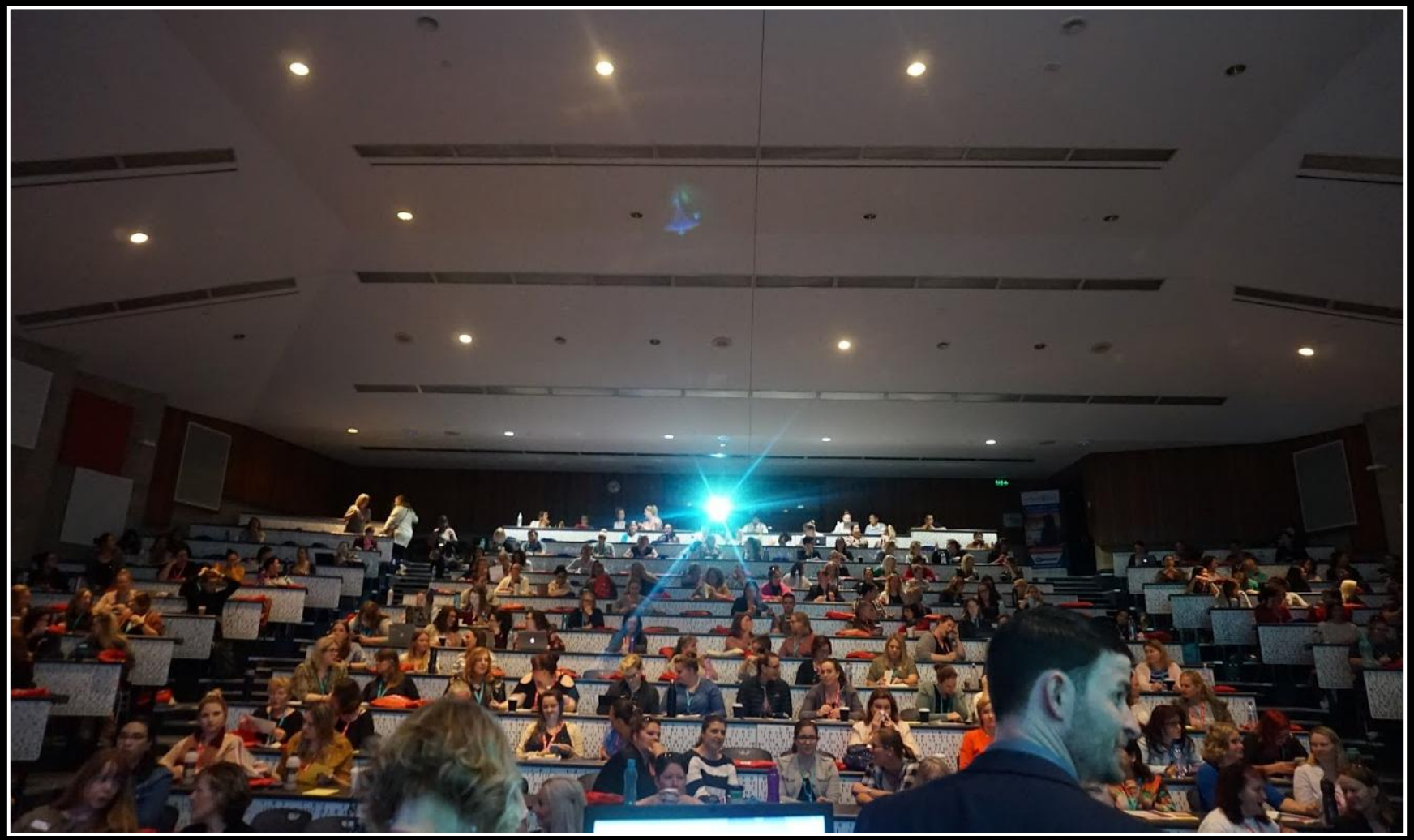
PLAYCE | THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Thank you Hayley Christian



Thank you
for your endorsement

Murdoch
UNIVERSITY
PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Murdoch Play Conference 2019


Murdoch
Education



Thank you Scott Tapier


Thank you
Jane Merewether

Thank you
for your endorsement

Reggio Network

Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange

Research for a new culture of childhood



Thank you
for your endorsement

Bold Park Community School

BoldPark
COMMUNITY SCHOOL


WELCOME TO THE
MUD CAFÉ
WHERE DIRT IS THE DISH
OF THE DAY! WHAT DO YOU
LIKE TO BAKE? IS IT A MUD
PIE OR A MUD CAKE?

Thank you
for your endorsement

Ngala



Thank you Kate Pitt

NGALA Midwest Early Childhood Summit | August 2019



WA PLAY STRATEGY

ECA WA believes all WA children have the right to access quality play opportunities in education, care,



Play Matters in WA!
Community Events



- Media coverage: events, radio, newspaper
- Visits & round table forums with key stakeholders
- Visits to rural schools
- Mondays@ Murdoch
- Designing school play policies
- Film nights: *Take Childhood Back*
- Play dates, play fairs, play streets, play picnics
- WA Play Strategy Website/ FB page
- Public engagement re: Perth Royal Show, local council events
- Conference presentations
- Research projects
- Family involvement
- Include child's voice

Thank you

Royal Show

2018-2019








Play Matters!
Early Years in Education Society
CONFERENCES
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT
RESOURCES
GRANTS
PARENT WORKSHOPS


Community Kindergartens Association
Community Kindergartens Association
0448 546 397
or
0448 KIN
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Play Matters its Everyone's Business
Play Matters!
WA Play Strategy
Endorse Today!
www.waplaystrategy.com
Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia Branch
WA Play Strategy Supp
4041 8854
People endorsed


Bessie
Spencer
NELLIE
VEIR
SCOTT
Nancy
Bettjeman


Early Childhood
Australia
A voice for young children
Advocates
for young children


WA PLAY STRATEGY HERE
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WA
PERTH ROYAL SHOW
28 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 2019
26
Relationships
Play
Wellbeing
Academic
Creative and Critical
Community Kindergartens
Play Matters!
WA Play Strategy Supporters
FREEMASON
Western Australia
Making Good Men Better
Early Childhood Australia
adidas


PLAY MATTERS: ENDORSE THE WA PLAY STRATEGY HERE!
44
CONFERENCES

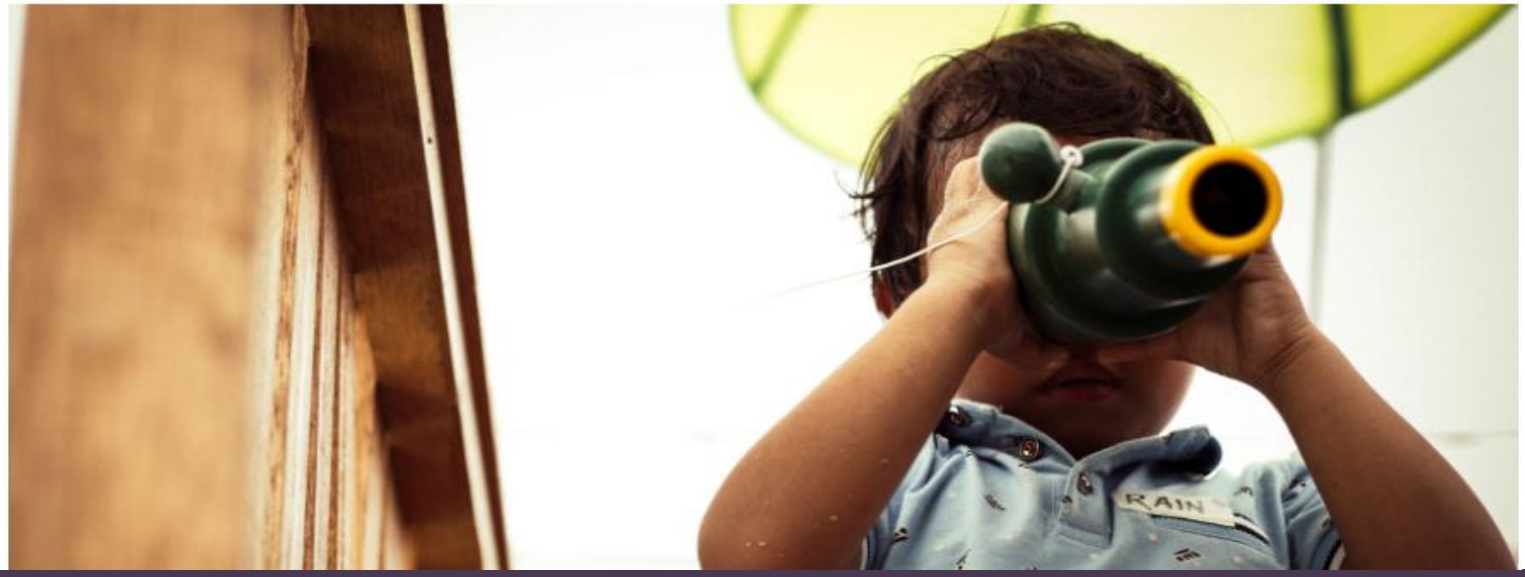


Royal Show 2019

ECA WA call for a WA Play Strategy reaches key milestone of 10,000 supporters

BY JASON ROBERTS OCTOBER 06, 2019

POLICY/PRACTICE




NaturePlay
Take Childhood Back
WINNER
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Thank you
for your endorsement

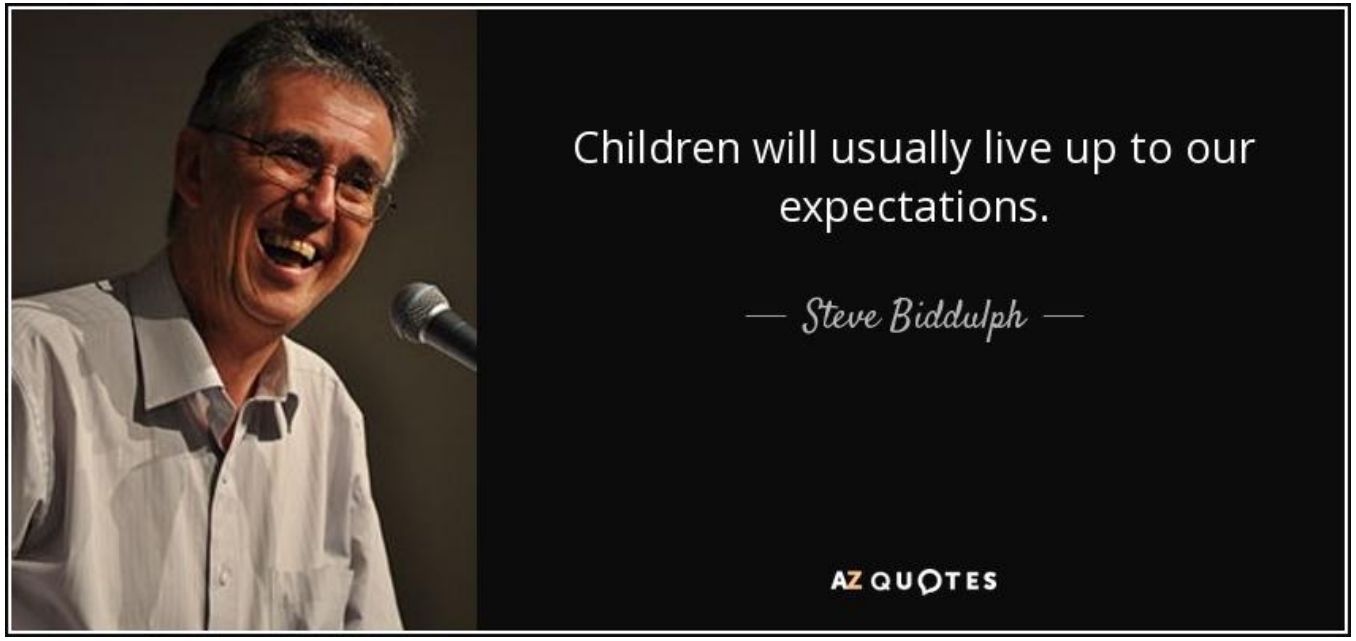
Nature Play WA

GETTING OUR KIDS OUTDOORS

Thank you
for your endorsement

Maggie Dent
quietly improving lives

Thank you
for your endorsement



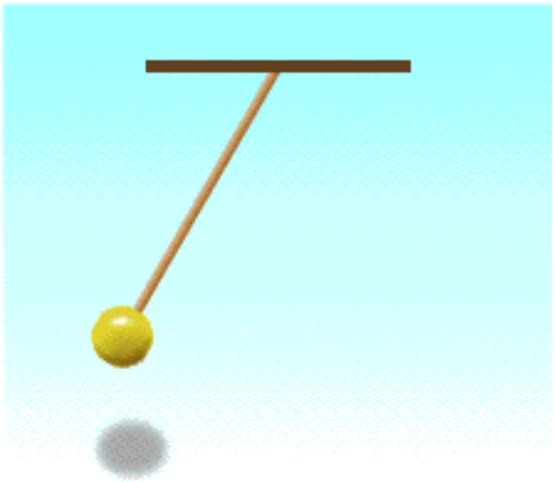
Steve Biddulph

Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

SSTUWA & ECA WA Campaign 2019 - the Asks

1. Government WA Play Strategy developed with other stakeholders in early childhood
2. Enforce and promote play-based learning in every K-Year class in WA in line with the mandated EYLF- public accountability
3. Establish a Ministerial Advisory Committee to provide independent advice, information and expertise on matters pertaining to play-based learning and EC pedagogy
4. Qualified ECE officers to regional offices throughout WA including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island officers
5. ECE play specialist in each primary school to oversee a School Play Policy: focus on indoor and outdoor environment

A WA Play Strategy Initiative



the pendulum has swung too far

SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

High expectations of success for every student in every school.

Schools

- Emphasise the role of play-based learning in a balanced curriculum for Kindergarten and Pre-primary students.
- Have all Year 3 and 4 students learning languages and prepare for Year 5 students in 2020.
- Have every senior secondary student, regardless of WACE eligibility, on a learning pathway that explicitly connects to further training or higher education.
- Provide information regarding VET pathways and career prospects in consultation with Department of Training and Workforce Development.
- Implement shared strategies for upper primary and lower secondary teachers to improve Year 7 writing achievement.



Thank you Department of Education

Importance of Play

2019 Early Childhood Conference: Play Matters

Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

NETWORK TEACH Inc.
LEARNING TODAY LEADING TOMORROW

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

OUR VISION: EVERY YOUNG CHILD IS THRIVING AND LEARNING

Thankyou Fiona Scidone and Natalie Walnock

Thank you Marcelle Saratsis




THRASS



Thank You Natasha Dakin

Thank you Katie and Kristy



Thank you
for your endorsement

como children



Thank you
Winni Ashanti


NUMERO

Thank you
Pene
Irvine



Thank you
for your endorsement

City of Wanneroo



Thank you Hayley Cann

CITY OF WANNEROO LIBRARIES

CHECK US OUT

it's all about play in the library



the story behind the program



Thank you Anna Targowska



Thank you Margaret Owens

Australasian Journal of Early Childhood
AJEC

Article

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The status-quo of play-based pedagogies in Western Australia: Reflections of early childhood education practitioners

Sandra Hesterman
Murdoch University

Anna Targowska
Edith Cowan University

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The Nexus of Play-based Learning and Early Childhood Education: A Western Australian Account

Ruth Wallace
Edith Cowan University
Sandra Hesterman
Murdoch University

Abstract

Human development theories identify child-initiated play as the primary source of early learning. Accordingly, the role of early childhood educators is to utilise the natural medium of play as a context for learning; an educational approach known as play-based learning. Recently, Western Australia (WA) has experienced an erosion of play-based learning opportunities across the early childhood education (ECE) spectrum, potentially violating children's rights. This paper presents research evidence related to this concerning issue. A self-completion, electronic questionnaire was distributed to educators through via several WA early childhood advocacy organisations. Participants (n=204) shared their perceptions about the availability of play-based learning opportunities for young children. Results identified perceived barriers and enablers to providing play-based learning in WA early childhood education settings that impact on children's wellbeing, development and learning. Assessment of play-based learning provision differed significantly between school-based and early education and care-based educators. Participants supported the implementation of a WA Play Strategy.

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Thank you
for your endorsement

World Organisation of Early Childhood Education

OMEP

Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education
Organizacion Mundial para la Educacion Preescolar


Play & Resilience

Thank you

Denise Clarke



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WA Play Strategy

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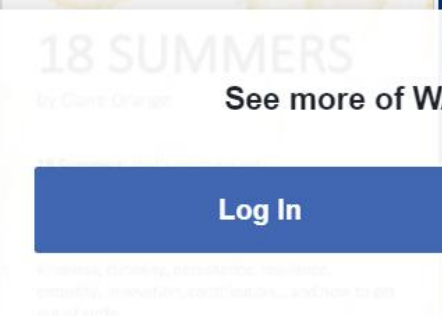
Photos

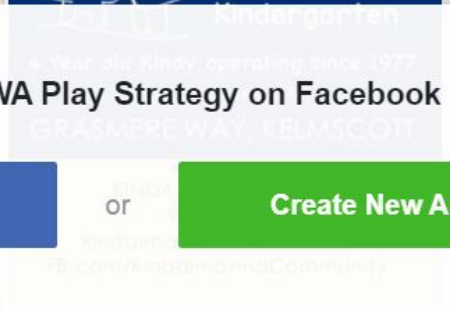




Non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Perth, Western Australia









See more of WA Play Strategy on Facebook

Log In or Create New Account

2019



Play is everyone's business

2020

10935

WA Play Strategy Supporters

as of May 2020

Let the WA Government know that PLAY MATTERS:
endorse ECAWA's campaign to establish a WA Play Strategy.



DOWNLOAD DISCUSSION PAPER

Play matters! Endorse our WA Play Strategy campaign

Join our campaign to deliver a State Government-lead Play Strategy for all West Australian children. Your endorsement of the campaign will provide significant influence towards achieving our goal.

On your behalf, the Community Comments written on this website will be presented to:

- State Government ministers
- WA Commissioner for Children and Young People
- WA Education Department.

ECAWA feedback on the demise of play in WA is being communicated to the United Nations via the National Commissioner for Children.

READ MORE ENDORSEMENTS

ENDORSE OUR CAMPAIGN

> *I am very concerned for young children, unrealistic expectations cause needless stress. Children need to develop at their own pace in a fun loving* play based *environment.*
>
> *Thank you for your work to save and promote play in our early years learning places (care and education) as well as throughout the primary school years. I endorse your statements.*
>
> **– Citizen Endorsement**

Privacy - Terms

Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

ECA Strategic Plan 2017–2020

OUR VISION: Every young child is thriving and learning.

To achieve this vision we champion the rights of young children to thrive and learn at home, in the community, within early learning settings and through the early years of school.

Our work builds the capacity of our society and the early childhood sector to realise the potential of every child during the critical early years from birth to the age of eight. ECA specifically acknowledges the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families, and the past and current injustices and realities for them around Australia.

We have identified five Strategic Priorities for 2017–2020; these are outlined below.

OUR VALUES:

Respect—we demonstrate our respect for children, families and professionals.

Leadership—we are courageous in promoting the rights and voice of young children.

Integrity—our work is based on evidence and expertise; it is always ethical and transparent.

Equity—we believe in social justice and equal opportunity.



Speak up for children

ECA is a courageous voice for young children and their families, representing their rights and interests in public, policy and funding debates.

1



Build social capital

ECA works collaboratively to build social capital in which all young children can thrive and benefit from Australia's future prosperity.

2



Champion quality in early education

ECA enhances the capacity of the early learning sector to provide high-quality services that amplify children's development, reduce inequity and improve long-term educational outcomes.

3



Lead and inspire professional learning

ECA develops and delivers high-quality professional resources and learning opportunities to build the knowledge base of educators, teachers and other professionals working with young children.

4



Position ECA for long-term success

ECA's future will be secured as a well-governed, sustainable, agile and innovative network that delivers benefits to our members and stakeholders.

5

Thank you Early Childhood Australia National Office





Our legacy… if we don't take action

https://vimeo.com/226782030



https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/the-wa-play-strategy

WA Play Strategy

The Office of Early Childhood will lead the development of an Australian first Play Strategy.

The WA Play Strategy will:

- Champion children's right to play and the importance of play in all children's lives.
- Articulate the fundamental value of play for health, happiness, learning and developm
- Promote opportunities to play, spaces to play and support for play across services an Government agencies and the wider community.

Thank You to Our Community Supporters for Helping Make the WA Play Strategy a Reality!

2026



Why are we doing this?

Early Childhood Australia (WA), the key advocacy organisation for children from birth to eight years of age, is leading a campaign to raise public awareness on the importance of play, and is advocating for a State government-led **WA Play Strategy** to reinstate young children's right to learn through play at school and in the community.



Find out more

10000+

PLAY MATTERS COLLECTIVE

https://www.playmatterscollective.org/